

**REMARKS**

Applicant concurrently files herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter for one (1) excess independent claim.

Claims 1-19 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 19, based on the Examiner's allowable subject matter, has been added to more completely define the invention. No new matter has been added. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-18 would be allowable if the rejections/objections are overcome.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9-10, 13, and 15-16 have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, thereby to pass all of the claims to allowance.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

**FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-19, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local

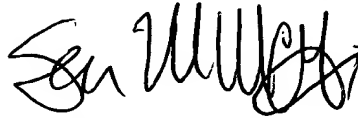
Serial No.: 09/923,953  
Docket No. NEC01P156-TTb  
WAK.093

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telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic  
or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit  
any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date:

4/26/05

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